

What is Glucagon?

Glucagon is used to raise the blood sugar when a child is unable to take liquid or food by mouth because of severe sleepiness, unconsciousness, or seizure activity. Glucagon must be injected with a syringe into the skin, like insulin. It is a hormone, which helps the liver to release sugar to raise the blood sugar.

When Do You Use Glucagon?

When the child has low blood sugar (usually below 20mg/dl) and is unable to take liquid or food by mouth because of severe sleepiness, unconsciousness, or seizure activity.

What You Need

- 2 Glucagon Emergency Kits. You will need a prescription to purchase the kits at a pharmacy. It is recommended you have one for home and one for school.
- Use of glucagon should be part of a child's Individualized Health Plan and be supplied to the school by the family with accompanying physician order.

When Possible, Check Blood Sugar Before and/or After Giving Glucagon. To Inject Glucagon:

- Glucagon is now available as recombinant DNA in a kit containing the glucagon powder in a vial and the diluent in a glucagon syringe.
- Remove the seal from the bottle of glucagon in the kit (the small vial/bottle containing a white powder/pellet).
- Inject the liquid in the syringe into the bottle of glucagon.

- Remove syringe from the bottle of glucagon, shake the bottle gently until the glucagon dissolves (looks clear).
- Draw-up the solution in the bottle with the correct size syringe based on the weight of the child.
- The glucagon syringe is marked with only 2 dosages 0.5 mg and 1.0 mg. The recommended dose of glucagon to inject is*:
 - –0.5 mg for a child 50 pounds or under
 - 1.0 mg for a child over 50 pounds
- Inject glucagon in the same manner as insulin injections.
- Keep the child lying on their side in case of vomiting.
- If the child does not respond, call 911.
- Once the child is awake give a snack such as cheese and crackers.

NOTE: It is common for the child to vomit or feel nauseous after receiving glucagon. Keep glucagon at room temperature in a central location in the home. Inform other caregivers of the location.

When possible, practice drawing up glucagon with an expired kit. Check the date of glucagon kits on a regular basis. Discard if past the expiration date. Obtain a refill immediately.

**dosage recommendations from glucagon manufacturer*

Adapted from: "Children with Diabetes: A Resource Guide for Schools", 2001, New York State Department of Health